

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Primary Responsibility

The primary responsibility of the Louisiana Engineering and Land Surveying Board (LAPELS) is to "...safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare..." by administering the licensure and practice of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors in Louisiana.

Board Meetings

The ordinary business of the board is conducted at board meetings. The board has six two-day board meetings a year at the board office in Baton Rouge. These meetings are scheduled months in advance and usually begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. Board meetings are normally held on Mondays and Tuesdays of the third week of alternate months beginning with January.

Committee Assignments

A large part of the board activities are handled by committee action between board meetings. The Bylaws of the board authorizes each of the board committees and assigns their corresponding responsibilities.

The Chairman appoints board members to serve on committees at the close of the July meeting. New board members are given committee assignments as soon as they are appointed to the board. Board members may find it necessary to work several hours per week and should plan additional time for committee meetings.

Committee review material is often distributed to board members via telephone, fax or mail by the board staff. A great deal of the information reviewed by the committee members is confidential and must be diligently protected by each board member. The Executive Secretary is responsible for effectuating the decisions of the committees, i.e., approve applicants to take examinations and register upon passing.

Board Hearings

Disciplinary matters are presented at board hearings. A board member should plan to attend two to four hearings a year. Each hearing may take two to six hours.

NCEES Meetings and Assignments

Board members may attend two NCEES meetings a year. These meetings take place in various locations throughout the United States in May and August. The meetings usually occur on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Wednesday and Sunday are usually travel days.

Board members should aspire for NCEES committee assignments. NCEES committee membership allows the board member to influence the future of professional engineering and land surveying licensure in the United States.

Compensation

Board member per diem is \$100.00 per day for board meetings and NCEES meetings. Committee work compensation is at the rate of \$15.00 per hour but no more than \$100.00 per day. In addition, board members are reimbursed for all actual expenses that are verified with receipts, including travel, food and lodging.

Staff

The day to day activities of the board are administered by the Executive Secretary under the direction of the Executive Committee (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). Each year the Executive Committee is elected by a vote of the board members. The board's fiscal year is from July through June and the new Executive Committee is seated at the July meeting.

Summary

Attendance at board meetings and hearings is a critical responsibility of board members. Even so, the business of the board will only be completed if committee assignments are timely completed. Therefore, board meetings and hearings are scheduled well in advance to ensure that a quorum of board members will be present and that sufficient time is available for committee work.

Board member participation in NCEES activities is also very important for the future of our profession. Failure of the Louisiana board to become heavily involved with NCEES activities will allow other states to make decisions that will ultimately affect the future of professional engineers and land surveyors in Louisiana.